



Policy for YoungStar Rating and Ratios

Programs that receive Wisconsin Shares child care subsidy are required to participate in YoungStar. In order to obtain 2 Stars or more, programs must be in compliance with licensing or certification rules or regulated by a public school board. When a program is operated by a public school board, the public school board is responsible for ensuring the program is following the same standards established by the Department of Children and Families (DCF) for licensed child care centers.¹ These rules include ratio and group size requirements for group child care programs provided below:²

Age of Children	Ratio of Staff to Child	Maximum Group Size
Birth – 2 yrs.	1:4	8
2 – 2.5 yrs.	1:6	12
2.5 – 3 yrs.	1:8	16
3 – 4 yrs.	1:10	20
4 – 5 yrs.	1:13	24
5 – 6 yrs.	1:17	34
6 yrs. and older	1:18	36

Note: Certified and licensed family programs must follow age group rules in DCF 250.³

If the program is found to be out of ratio at the time of the YoungStar rating, the following procedures will be followed in regard to YoungStar rating:

- **Technical Rating**
 - If a program is found to be out of ratio at the time of a Technical Rating, the Rater will not rate the program.

¹ Wisconsin Stats. s.120.13 (14), states in pertinent part that school boards may: “Establish and provide or contract for the provision of child care programs for children. The school board may receive federal or state funds for this purpose. Child care programs established under this subsection shall meet the standards for licensed child care centers established by the Department of Children and Families.”

² DCF 251 is available here: http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/childcare/licensed/CommManuals/GCC/dcf_p_pfs4024.pdf

³ DCF 250 is available here: http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/childcare/licensed/pdf/dcf_p_203.pdf

- The Rater will reschedule the rating for another date. If at that time, the program is still out of ratio, the program will lose eligibility for a Technical Rating and will move to Automated Rating. This will result in a 2 Star rating.

- **Formal Rating**

- If the program is found to be out of ratio at the time of the Minimum Points Verification, the program will not be eligible for a Formal Rating for that rating year. The Technical Consultant will schedule another day to do the Technical Rating. If the program is out of compliance at the rescheduled Technical Rating, the program will lose eligibility for a Technical Rating and will move to Automated Rating.
- If a program is found to be out of ratio at the time of a Formal Rating, the Rater will not rate the program. The program loses eligibility for a Formal Rating and must work with their Technical Consultant to schedule a Technical Rating.

Further Information for Programs Operated by Public School Boards

YoungStar requirements for staffing of school-age care programs require these programs to follow the group child care licensing rules (DCF 251) regarding maximum ratio of staff to children and group size. If a program operated by a public school board is found by a YoungStar staff member to be out of compliance with ratio requirements, the issue will be brought to the attention of the program Director or Site Supervisor and DCF will be notified. DCF will then contact the public school board responsible for the program to notify the board of the violation of licensing rules.